(c) whether it is a fact that the subsidy corporations have been seeking permission from NTC for recruitment of trainee workers and operational staff;

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) whether the retrenched workers were paid their dues; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (e) NTC has not *retrenched* 17,000 workers. However. NTC has abolished 14,180 posts from April, 1984 to September, 1986 under the labour rationalisation scheme which is not tantamount to retrenchment.

Mill-wise details of posts abolished are given in Annexure attached to this statement. [*See* Appendix CXL, Annexure No. 32]

The subsidiaries are empowered to fill-up operational posts subject to certain conditions and to take trainees/apprentices as required under the law.

Workers leaving employment under the labour rationalisation scheme have been paid statutory dues and dues admissible under the scheme.

Closure of NTC mills

*116. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to close down down some NTC mills;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what would be the fate of the workers of those mills and what is Government's plan to save the workers from unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) No final decision has been taken to close down any NTC mills so far.

Setting up of a currency notes press at Panagarh, in West Bengal

*117. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTI. RAM PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up a currency note press at Panagarh in West Bengal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Panagarh is close to the international border of Bangladesh;

(c) whether it is desirable to set up a currency press near international border; and

(d) what is the opinion of the experts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) Panagarh in West Bengal had been identified tentatively as a possible site along with others for locating a new Bank note press. While the need for augmenting Bank note Press capacity has been clearly established, various aspects like optimum capacity per unit, demand distribution etc. which have a bearing on the location are yet to be fully gone into. The point made by Hon'ble member also be taken into account while taking a final decision on the location.

Purchase of Cotton by the Cotton Corporation of India

*118. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the Cotton Corporation of India to purchase sufficient quantity of cotton with a view to ensuring its